



## **ANIMAL PROTECTORS ALLIANCE (APA) PRESS RELEASE - KANGAROOS SUFFERING INVISIBLE TO ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

Since the ACT government's 2022 kangaroo massacre began at Red Hill Nature Reserve on Monday 23 May, at least 100 kangaroos have been killed under conditions that breach the ACT Code of Practice for "humanely" killing kangaroos: high winds, rain and heavily wooded terrain where the chance of a "clean kill" is remote.

Spokesperson for the Animal Protectors Alliance, Robyn Soxsmith, notes:

*This is the same abhorrent and next-to-useless Code of Practice which mandates the bludgeoning to death of dependent joeys whose mothers have been shot. Yet the shooters don't even bother to abide by the few piddling protections for kangaroos the Code does attempt to provide.*

The police will do nothing because the police think the RSPCA is responsible for the enforcement of animal welfare law.

The RSPCA will do nothing because they rely on the ACT government for funding.

The law courts will do nothing because they need a bleeding, suffering animal as evidence that the Act has been breached. The nightly closure of the reserves, and the obscenely severe penalties threatened for entering the closed reserves, prevent any member of the public from going in and photographing the bleeding, suffering bodies - or, heaven forbid, picking one up and taking it for veterinary attention.

The ACT Assembly, every last member of it, is legally and morally responsible for allowing and continuing to allow the Kangaroo Management Plan to be a legislative instrument. It is this instrument which, on the basis of no scientific evidence whatsoever, has mandated the violent deaths of over 28,000 kangaroos since 2009.

The ACT Legislative Assembly is also legally and morally responsible for the Code of Practice which prevents the law from treating unambiguous cruelty to animals as unambiguous cruelty to animals.

Frankie Seymour, animal advocate, environmental scientist and former member (for 18 years) of the ACT government's own Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, urges the citizens of the ACT to reject the Chief Minister's assertions that its annual kill-fest is based on evidence.

*It is not. If you don't believe me, ask the government to send you its baseline data on kangaroo numbers and any evidence of kangaroo overgrazing from **before the killing started in 2009**. They can't, because there never was any baseline data or evidence. And the only new evidence they've obtained since (CSIRO 2014) showed no overpopulation and no overgrazing.*

Ms Soxsmith adds:

*It's never been about protecting the environment, and it has certainly never been about anything resembling evidence. You only have to look at what's happened around the borders of every reserve where kangaroos have been killed to see that the whole massacre has never been about anything but development.*

Contact: Robyn Soxsmith. Mobile: 0424191561